

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, after the title, please add the following paragraph:

This application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/CH2004/000288, filed on May 12, 2004.

On page 1, before the paragraph beginning on line 1, please add the following heading:

TECHNICAL FIELD

On page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

The invention relates to a layout, in particular for a timepiece time base, intended to generate a time reference, and to a method of generating a time reference.

On page 1, before the paragraph beginning at line 4, please add the following heading:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On page 2, before the paragraph beginning at line 23, please add the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 31 as follows:

- an oscillator circuit including a second oscillator including and a silicon resonator, the frequency F_2 of which is different from that of the resonator of the first oscillator, and which presents a first order thermal coefficient in a ratio $\lambda.F_{10}/F_{20}$ with the first order thermal coefficient of the resonator of the first oscillator, F_{10} and F_{20} being the respective natural frequencies of the first and second resonators,
- the oscillator circuit also including a frequency divider dividing the frequency F_2 of the signal output by the second oscillator by a factor λ and generating the output signal of this oscillator circuit,

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 33 as follows:

- means for generating, by frequency difference between the signal output by the first oscillator and the signal output by the ~~second~~ oscillator circuit, a first temperature-stable time reference,

On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 27 as follows:

- the correction means ~~include~~ includes a programmable frequency divider having a range of division factors with which to compensate the frequency drifts of the first oscillator due to the temperature and/or the absolute accuracy of the first oscillator. [[,]]

On page 3, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 30.

On page 4, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 as follows:

- generation of a second frequency, different from the first frequency[[.]] by a second oscillator including a silicon resonator, the first order thermal coefficient of the resonator of the first oscillator being roughly equal to the first order thermal coefficient of the resonator of the second oscillator multiplied by the ratio $F_2/\lambda.F_4 F_{20}/\lambda.F_{10}$,

On page 4, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 9 as follows:

- generation of a first temperature-stable time reference by frequency difference between the signal output by the first oscillator and the signal output by the second oscillator after division of the latter by the factor λ ,

On page 4, before the paragraph beginning at line 28, please add the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 5, before the paragraph beginning at line 1, please add the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

On page 5, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

Figure 1 represents [[a]] an exemplary schematic diagram of a time base using the frequency difference of the signals from two oscillators, each including a silicon resonator. In this figure, the first oscillator OSC1 operates at a lower frequency than the

oscillator OSC2. At the output of the second oscillator, there is a frequency divider DIV2[[,]] associated with the second oscillator OSC2 and performing a frequency division by an integer number λ . These two components together define an oscillator circuit (symbolized by broken lines in Figures 1 and 2). The frequency difference between the signal S1 from the first oscillator OSC1 and the signal S2 from the second oscillator OSC2, after frequency division by a factor λ , forms a time reference REF_[[,]] ~~the~~ The frequency of which is stable, if the ratio between the frequencies is the inverse of the ratio of their first order thermal coefficient.

On page 5, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 19 as follows:

ΔT being a temperature variation, α_1 being the first order thermal coefficient of
the resonator of the oscillator OSC1 and F_{10} being its natural frequency,

On page 5, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 24 as follows:

α_2 being the first order thermal coefficient of the resonator of the oscillator OSC2
and F_{20} being its natural frequency, and also, the following condition is satisfied:

On page 11, please replace the heading to read:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: